

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-7 were originally pending in this application. Claim 8 was added in response to a previous Office Action. Claim 5 was previously canceled. Claim 1 has been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Also, claim 4 has been cancelled herein. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 6-8 remain pending for consideration in this application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,995,347 issued to Kohler. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kohler '347 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,881,213 issued to Tilli.

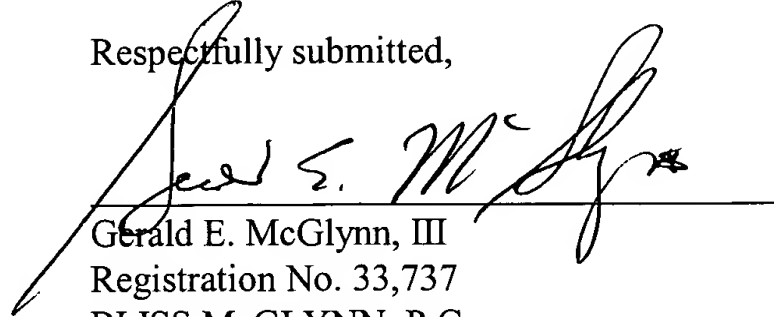
On the other hand, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of: 1) "planar abutment" between the bottom side of the beam and the top side of the rubber blade; and 2) a gap defined between the end portion of the rubber blade and the deformed end portion of the beam wherein an axis extending perpendicularly from the end portion of the rubber blade passes through the gap and the deformed end portion.

Claim 1 has been amended with the Examiner's comments in mind.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. McGlynn, III", is written over a horizontal line.

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